Director raises Iron Curtain on hockey *10*

Formento's saucy 4-star debut *26*

red eye

Friday
FEBRUARY 6, 2015

★ FREE ★
A Chicago Tribune publication

LET IT GROW

Former copywriter's budding Uptown flower business has strong family roots *18-19*

Janessa Knodt, owner of Forget Me Knodt
HILARY HIGGINS PHOTO FOR REDEYE

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

CANDY CRUSH CRAWL

Old Crow Smokehouse

3506 N. Clark St. 312-850-8168

Wear a candy- or Valentine's Day-themed costume and crawl to seven Wrigleyville bars collecting sweets. The second annual event also includes drink specials, games, a costume contest and a beanie. Noon-6 p.m. Saturday. $30-$40. Tickets: **candycrushcrawl.com**

DRINK

CIDER SUMMIT CHICAGO

Navy Pier Grand Ballroom

600 E. Grand Ave. 800-595-7437

More than 40 cider producers from five countries lead tastings at the third annual fest. Tickets include eight tastings, and you can buy additional ones for $2 each if you want to try more of the 160 ciders being poured. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & 4-8 p.m. Saturday $30-$35.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Horse Thief Hollow

10426 S. Western Ave. 773-779-2739

The South Side brewery celebrates by partnering with Revolution Brewing, which is turning 5, to release the Ambiguously Grain Duo German-style sticke alt. The bash also feature live blues music from Carl Weathersby. 7:30 p.m. Friday. No cover.

DO

HIJINKS FEST

iO *1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401*

Experimental sketch collective Hijinks performs 12 of the hourlong shows they wrote during the past 18 months back-to-back at this comedy marathon celebrating their new monthly run at iO. Noon-Midnight Saturday. $15-$20. Tickets: **hijinksfest.com**

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Click Shoes, Tribeca Boutique, Uncle Dan's, Sara Jane, The Denim Lounge and Londo Mondo take oven an empty Lincoln Park storefront to sell clothing, outerwear, shoes and accessories for up to 90 percent off. Partial proceeds benefit cancer support group Imerman Angels. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. RSVP to **info@thedenimlounge.com** for early access from 2-8 p.m. Friday.

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redeyechicago.com

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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY Tickets to "Annaleigh Ashford—Lost in the Stars" at the Broadway Playhouse go on sale Friday at **broadwayinchicago.com**.

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Cloud Gate at Millennium Park
CHARLES OSGOOD/TRIBUNE FILE

tourist town

By Megan Crepeau | REDEYE

More than 50 million tourists clogged up Chicago's sidewalks in 2014—a record high, according to city data released this week. That's a 3.5 percent bump over 2013. And with 2.7 million residents, that means Chicagoans are getting trampled about 18 times over by visitors.

The Museum of Contemporary Art likely saw huge gains from the 2014 tourism influx, probably thanks to its wildly popular David Bowie exhibit. The MCA saw its attendance shoot up 50.5 percent over 2013, to 339,000 attendees, according to the Tribune.

Other popular tourist attractions included the Museum of Science and Industry and the Art Institute, which each hosted 1.4 million visitors last year; the Lincoln Park Zoo saw more than double that, with 3.3 million visitors. And don't forget the Shedd Aquarium, which 1.8 million people attended in 2014.

Mayor Emanuel wants his historic numbers to shoot even higher, and so the city's tourism bureau is busting out a new ad campaign called "Chicago Epic." Here are five things you need to know about Chicago tourism trends.

TRIBUNE CONTRIBUTED.

1 **There's no real way to tell yet if this is an across-the-board national increase** or something specific to Chicago. The bureau that keeps track of national tourism numbers won't have final 2014 figures until later this year, so while Chicago's raw numbers look great, there's a chance this is just part of an overall post-recession spike in tourism.

2 **That said, we're gaining on New York.** That other major urban center had 56.4 million visitors in 2014, just a hair ahead of Chicago. Maybe it's because we are not savages who just drop our garbage right there on the sidewalk?! Give it some thought, New York. Do better.

3 **Get used to terrible clueless tourists** walking five abreast in slow motion down Michigan Avenue when you're JUST TRYING TO GET TO JIMMY JOHN'S, UGH, GOD. Emanuel wants 55 million visitors per year to come through Chicago by 2020. That translates into big money for the city, both from direct spending and tax money.

4 **If Chicago's image as a crime- and corruption-ridden Den Of Sin is still around**, it's not really hurting tourism—probably because visitors stick to downtown and, let's say, Wrigleyville, which may as well be Disneyland. Regardless, "Chicago Epic" will try to brand our town as diverse and modern rather than murdery. Also it sounds like it wants to be something out of "Game of Thrones," which for the record I am cool with. EPIC, BRO.

5 **Emanuel is running for office.** Why else release sunny tourism numbers after a week of the most brutal weather Chicago can muster? It's less than three weeks until Election Day, and this helps him take credit for job creation and reinforce his image as booster-in-chief.

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BRIAN CASSELLA/ TRIBUNE FILE

Should I date outside my race?

Anna Pulley
» redeye@redeyechicago.com
» @annapulley

Dear Anna,
I'm a black woman who's attracted to a white man. I like him and he feels the same way about me, but I've never dated outside my race before. I come from a very black-power-oriented family and I'm not too sure how they would take me dating a white man. I'm not even sure if I'm ready to step out that comfort zone, but I don't want to possibly miss out on a good thing. What's a woman to do?
—Something New?

Dear Something,
Take this with a grain of metaphorical salt (I'm a half-white person who looks entirely white), but I say get your swirl on. Will there be race-related issues that come up in your relationship, should you prove compatible? Probably. Will you get pushback from family and friends? Probably. Is it worth it if you get an awesome relationship out of the deal? Probably!

As much as we like to think of ourselves as a "post-race," color-blind society, we're decidedly not. I mean, people can't even watch "Scandal" without becoming livid that a black character, Olivia Pope (played by Kerry Washington), has a fictional affair with the show's married, white president.

But! Interracial dating and marriage, particularly between whites and blacks, has gotten much easier over the years. Here's some heartening data from the Pew Research Center: In the past 25 years, we've seen "the single largest shift" in attitudes toward interracial dating. In 1987, it was pretty controversial, with only 48 percent of Americans agreeing that "it's all right for blacks and whites to date each other." In the most current survey, however (from 2012), 86 percent of Americans thought it was hunky dory, up slightly from 83 percent in 2009.

Of course, just because Pew made a pie chart doesn't mean your relationship is going to be without its bumps. In fact, I probably would wait to "come out" to your parents until after you see if the relationship has potential. Don't lie or anything, but also don't take out an ad on the "L." But—and this may be the romantic, Pollyanna view—I do firmly believe that skin color should have no bearing on whom we love. Like, at all.

If you'd like advice from real mixed-race couples, take a look at Erica Chito Childs' book "Navigating Interracial Borders," or read Roger Ebert's touching essay about his wife, Chaz. "How can I begin to tell you about Chaz? She fills my horizon, she is the great fact of my life," he wrote on their 20th wedding anniversary. For now though, check those longer-term concerns at the door and focus on the superfun awkwardness that is "dating a new person." Fall in love with unpredictability. Make a few messes. Train your heart in the wild art of joyous disruption. How does it feel?

WANT TO ASK ANNA AN ANONYMOUS QUESTION ABOUT LOVE, SEX OR DATING? EMAIL YOUR QUANDARY TO REDEYEDATING@GMAIL.COM. NEED TO GIVE YOUR DATING LIFE A BOOST? SIGN UP FOR REDEYE DATING.

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Blue line trains head in and out of the Cumberland station. ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE

Blue Line plan gets $120M

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

The CTA has secured $120 million in federal funds to move forward with its four-year, $492 million project to renovate North Side Blue Line stations, Mayor Emanuel and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced Thursday morning.

Thirteen Blue Line stations between downtown and O'Hare Airport will be refurbished as part of the project, which will be paid for with federal, state and local funds. The CTA expects to start construction later this year on the Addison, Irving Park, Montrose, Harlem and Cumberland stations on the North Side, according to the transit agency.

"The 'L' does need more capacity. It does need more reliable service," Foxx told reporters. "[Chicagoans] deserve a system that's every bit as good as they are."

Once fixes are complete, the Blue Line will be "faster, safer and quicker," Emanuel said a news conference at the Cumberland Blue Line station, which is slated to get platform and wall repairs and new signs and paint. Blue Line riders should see 10 minutes shaved off their commutes each way, Emanuel said.

The $120 million officials announced Thursday is a low-interest, long-term loan through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act loan, also known as TIFIA, a federal program designed to fund transportation projects. CTA spokeswoman Tammy Chase said the loan is cheaper than issuing bonds and is expected to save the CTA $41 million in financing during the life of the loan.

THE DIGIT

1,300 Number of construction, engineering and design jobs the project is expected to create, according to the mayor's office. REDEYE

Station work will include platform repairs, new stairs and escalators and cosmetic changes. The Addison station in Irving Park is slated to get an elevator to make the station accessible for wheelchair riders while the Irving Park, Montrose, Harlem and Cumberland stations will see less substantial changes.

The CTA will know the construction schedule for these stations and whether they will be closed to commuters during repairs once the contract for the work is approved by the CTA board, likely this spring, Chase said.

The CTA last year began work on the project by renovating the California and Western stops in Logan Square and the Damen stop in Wicker Park and repairing nearby track.

The CTA is expected to begin the design work this year on the Jefferson Park Blue Line stop on the Northwest Side and next year on the Grand Blue Line stop in West Town.

Emanuel last month proposed using $4 million in tax-increment financing to repair the Grand stop and $5 million of similar funds to fix the Jefferson Park stop.

About 80,000 riders use the O'Hare branch of the Blue Line each weekday, according to CTA data.

TSWARTZ@REDEYECHICAGO.COM | @TRACYSWARTZ

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Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

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- Chicago voters may use any of the City's 51 sites.
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February 9 - 21, 2015 • All open Mon-Sat., 9 am-5 pm (Only 5 sites open Sun., Feb. 15)

WARD	LOCATION	ADDRESS
1	Goldblatts Building	1615 W. Chicago Ave.
2	Access Living	115 W. Chicago Ave.
3	Chicago Bee Library	3647 S. State St.
4	**M L King Community Ctr** (This site also is open Sun., Feb. 15 from 9 am - 3 pm)	**4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave.**
5	Jackson Park	6401 S. Stony Island Ave.
6	Whitney Young Library	7901 S. M. L. King Jr. Dr.
7	Jeffery Manor Library	2401 E. 100th St.
8	Olive Harvey College	10001 S. Woodlawn Ave.
9	Palmer Park	201 E. 111th St.
10	Vodak/East Side Library	3710 E. 106th St.
11	9 District Police	3120 S. Halsted St.
12	McKinley Park	2210 W. Pershing Rd.
13	West Lawn Park	4233 W. 65th St.
14	Archer Heights Library	5055 S. Archer Ave.
15	Gage Park	2411 W 55th St.
16	Lindblom Park	6054 S. Damen Ave.
17	Thurgood Marshall Library	7506 S. Racine Ave.
18	Wrightwood-Ashburn Library	8530 S. Kedzie Ave.
19	**Mount Greenwood Park** (This site also is open Sun., Feb. 15 from 9 am - 3 pm)	**3721 W. 111th St.**
20	Coleman Library	731 E. 63rd St.
21	Woodson Regional Library	9525 S. Halsted St.
22	Piotrowski Park	4247 W. 31st St.
23	Clearing Library	6423 W. 63rd Pl.
24	Douglass Library	3353 W. 13th St.
25	Chinatown Library	2353 S. Wentworth Ave.
26	Humboldt Park Library	1605 N. Troy St.
27	Eckhart Park	1330 W. Chicago Ave.
28	**West Side Learning Ctr** (This site also is open Sun., Feb. 15 from 9 am - 3 pm)	**4624 W. Madison St.**
29	Amundsen Park	6200 W. Bloomingdale Ave.
30	Kilbourn Park	3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.
31	Portage Cragin Library	5108 W. Belmont Ave.
32	Bucktown-Wicker Park Library	1701 N. Milwaukee Ave.
33	Horner Park	2741 W. Montrose Ave.
34	West Pullman Library	830 W. 119th St.
35	Independence Library	3548 W. Irving Park Rd.
36	West Belmont Library	3104 N. Narragansett Ave.
37	West Chicago Library	4856 W. Chicago Ave.
38	Hiawatha Park	8029 W. Forest Preserve Dr.
39	N. Park Village Admn Bldg	5801 N. Pulaski Rd.
40	Budlong Woods Library	5630 N. Lincoln Ave.
41	Roden Library	6083 N. Northwest Hwy.
42	Museum of Broadcast Communications	360 N. State St.
43	Lincoln Park Library	1150 W. Fullerton Ave.
44	Merlo Library	644 W. Belmont Ave.
45	16 District Police	5151 N. Milwaukee Ave.
46	Truman College	1145 W. Wilson Ave.
47	**Welles Park** (This site also is open Sun., Feb. 15 from 9 am - 3 pm)	**2333 W. Sunnyside Ave.**
48	Edgewater Library	6000 N. Broadway
49	Pottawattomie Park	7340 N. Rogers Ave.
50	Warren Park	6601 N. Westen Ave.
Board of Elections	**69 W. Washington St.** (This site also is open Sun., Feb. 15 from 9 am - 3 pm)	**Lower Level Conf. Room**

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chicago

Mayor Emanuel, Ald. Bob Fioretti (2nd), Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, William "Dock" Walls and Willie Wilson take part in a mayoral debate at ABC 7's studios on Thursday.
ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE

HOT DATE
FEB. 10

Chicago Votes, a nonpartisan organization that engages young Chicagoans in the political process, will have a watch party beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the final televised hourlong mayoral debate to air on WBBM-Ch. 2. The watch party dubbed "All About That Race," playing off Meghan Trainor's song "All About That Bass," will be at Blue 1647, a tech innovation center located at 1647 S. Blue Island Ave. After the debate, the group will host a discussion about election. REDEYE

THE QUOTE

"It's incredibly difficult to find a master cultivator with 10 to 20 years of experience who hasn't been convicted of a minor or major drug offense."

—Michael Mayes, CEO of Quantum 9, a Chicago-based marijuana industry consultant, saying he's worried about people being bounced out of the state's medical marijuana program once FBI checks are done. Gov. Rauner awarded licenses this week to 70 medical marijuana businesses before out-of-state criminal background checks could be done through an FBI database, as required under state law. TRIBUNE

EXPRESS LINES

» Senate Democrats on Thursday pushed through a measure to raise the state's minimum wage to $11 an hour by 2019, bucking Republican Gov. Rauner's call a day earlier for a smaller increase that would be phased in over a longer period of time.

» Health officials say five children under age 1 who attend KinderCare Learning Center in Palatine have been diagnosed with measles. Test results are pending for the other three children but they've been diagnosed based on clinical criteria.

» Rep. Aaron Schock's senior adviser Benjamin Cole resigned Thursday after news reports of old Facebook posts in which he allegedly urged a mosque be built at the White House, saying "it would be nice for the President to have his own house of worship." TRIBUNE

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sports

Gabe Polsky
ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE

THE 'OTHER' MIRACLE ON ICE

CHICAGO DIRECTOR'S FILM ILLUMINATES COSTS OF HOCKEY GREATNESS

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Not long ago, Canadians were a distant second when it came to competitive hockey. For decades, including during the Cold War, no one could touch the success of the Soviet Union.

In the new film "Red Army," director and suburban Glencoe native Gabe Polsky tells the story of Viacheslav Fetisov and other players of that era. The documentary touches on not only their rise to dominance, but the cost of that greatness growing up in Soviet Russia.

Polsky, 35, is the son of Ukrainian immigrants and played Division I hockey at Yale.

"What I saw was a religious experience," he said of seeing the Soviets on tape for the first time. "The combination, the creativity, they were constantly creating opportunities. Every time they touched the puck they were doing something interesting with it."

RedEye spoke to Polsky about the Miracle on Ice, riding on Vladimir Putin's plane and Patrick Kane being underrated.

How important is it to tell this story now, in this political climate?

You see in this movie Russia's struggle to regain its identity and pride. It's been a crisis. And that's what [the Red Army was] doing. The hockey team was giving them unity and a sense of pride because they're so good. [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's trying to re-establish that. He's trying to re-establish Russia's place in the world today and the prestige that it had in Soviet times. [The movie] also shows on the other hand the cost of limiting the individual during those times.

Do you get a sense from the Soviet players that they thought it was worth it?

It was state-run, everything. They funded their sports system where they took kids from a young age and trained them and made them into superstars. But they were doing that because they wanted to promote communism all over the world. They wanted to show how dominant they were and basically spread their ideas. Sports communicated that. That was something that was purely political. The players, now they didn't care. What were they supposed to do? They wanted to play hockey.

How did your own perceptions change in making this movie?

Part of the reason I wanted to make the movie is because I understood these [Cold War] cliches. I was on both sides in a way. On the one hand I love ["Rocky IV"], but on the other hand you can't just make it black and white like that, [as if] 'they're the bad guys, we're the good guys.' And that's a problem. The Russians, as you see in the movie, are kind of standoff-ish. They're aware they've become a cliche. And this movie unveils the humanity behind this team and who these guys were.

What's the craziest thing you experienced in making this movie?

I get to Sochi [to interview Fetisov] and I fall asleep because I was up all night traveling. I get five calls [from Fetisov saying], "Where are you?" I said, "I'm here at the hotel," and he says, "All right, I'll be there in 10 minutes." So I've got to get the whole interview together, and I can't just shoot in a corner. So he shows up and we do the interview and it was fine.

He said [after our interview], "OK, I've got to go." And I said, "Where are you going?" And he said, "I have to go meet Putin." And I said, "Well, I don't know how I'm going to get home." I asked him, "How are you getting home," and he said, "I'm taking the presidential plane." I go, "Can I come with you?" And he sort of looks at me like I'm crazy. Then he calls somebody, I don't know who. He says, "Yeah this guy, he's of Ukrainian descent," he doesn't want to say I'm American. So he gets off the phone and says, "Well, you're going to go on the presidential plane. You see what I can do?" I was like all right, great. We're about to get on the plane and he said don't look at anybody, look straight down, go straight to the back of the plane and don't talk to anybody. I went on the plane and got a ride back to Moscow, and basically every Soviet hockey legend was on the plane.

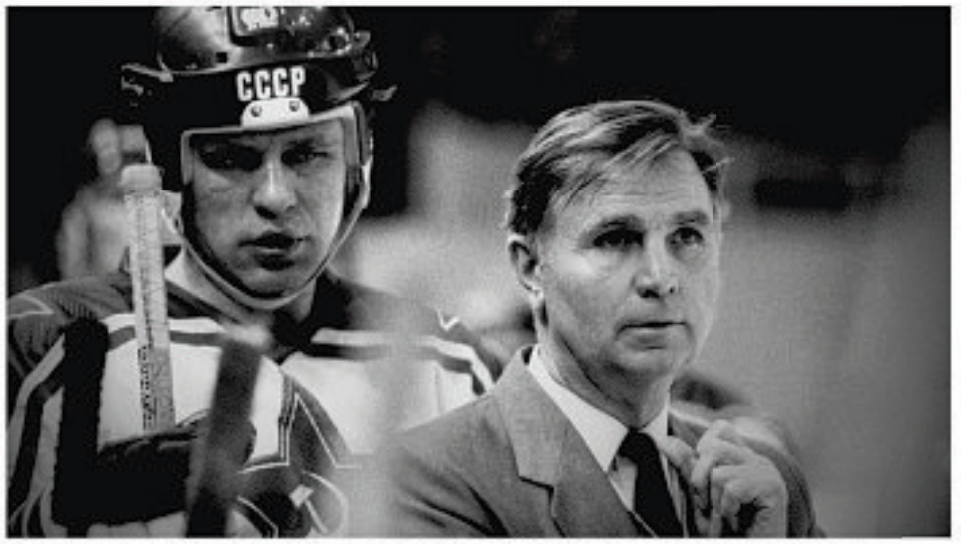
How is such a creative style of hockey born out of such an oppressive philosophy?

These guys, the only place they were free was on the ice. It was kind of like the most free hockey that ever existed by far. They called them the robots? We were like the dumb robots, whereas they were artists.

Would you say Patrick Kane is the embodiment of that style today?

Yes. Even though he's considered one of the best players in the NHL, he's the most underrated. The guy can make plays from anywhere. He's an amazing passer and finisher. Every time he touches the puck, it's exciting. And shouldn't we want hockey like that, widespread, instead of just one guy in the league?

THE STARTING LINE
» Blackhawks at Winnipeg, 7 p.m. CSN
» Illinois quarterback Aaron Bailey to transfer
» Fire play to scoreless in preseason opener at Norwich City



Viktor Tikhonov (right) coached the Red Army hockey team to three Olympic gold medals.

'Red Army' a Stanley Cup Final-like rush

Chris Sosa
» chsosa@redeyechicago.com
» @redeyesportschi

Red Army
Opens Friday at select theaters in Chicago

There's a scene in "Red Army" where the central figure seeks the assistance of an elderly mentor and puts a young child on his shoulders to use as a training weight.

It could be straight out of "Rocky IV." It's not.

That moment is from the life of legendary hockey player Viacheslav Fetisov, who captained one of the greatest teams ever at the height of its power.

The story from director and suburban Chicago native Gabe Polsky comes down to this: The players on that powerhouse succeeded because of, as well as in spite of, the Soviet philosophy and Cold War backdrop. Which makes "Red Army," and how its best players struggled with patriotism and their own dreams, as compelling as any Stanley Cup Final.

The calling card of Russian hockey flies in the face of the phrase "Soviet system." It suggests the players were drones when in reality they played like five Patrick Kanes—even defensemen like Fetisov were prolific scorers. Their goal was to create ballet on the ice, encouraging creativity while playing as a unit.

Now, the process through which the Red Army achieved that success—going a two-year stretch in the 1980s without losing a single game—is startling.

Imagine if the Blackhawks were forced to practice 11 months out of the year, rarely getting to see their families. Or if clandestine agents were strategically inserted into their social circles, beating the players if they stepped out of line. Or if and when they chose to play in a foreign country, 90 percent of their salaries were funneled to the government.

There would be outrage, regardless of the results those methods may produce. Yet this was the Russian players' dilemma: compete for your country and be hailed a hero, or turn your back on those in power and be considered an outcast.

Without sternly pointing a finger at North America and saying, "Don't judge these guys before you know their side of the story," "Red Army" shines light on a team universally respected but rarely understood. Beyond the game footage, the video of players practicing and even old interviews is jaw-dropping in some respects.

Near the end of the movie, Fetisov reflects on winning the Stanley Cup in Detroit after being reunited with several of his friends from previous Olympic teams. Even die-hard Blackhawks fans would have a hard time not being happy for the Red Wings for a moment, and that's saying an awful lot.

CHRIS SOSA IS REDEYE'S SPORTS EDITOR.

» Spike Lee to serve as coach for NBA All-Star Celebrity Game

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ALMOST HOME

The Bulls and Hawks could have bonded on won games on the road. So much for that.

	Evan F. Moore @evanfmoore RedEye contributor	Shaun Davis @ShaunM Davis1 Chicagoland Sports Radio	Jimmy Greenfield @jcgreenx ChicagoNow community manager	Bag Boy @redeyesportschi Brown-bagged and furious	Stick Figure @redeyesportschi Big head, little body
1 **The Bulls and Blackhawks' road trips are almost over. Give them motivation for the home stretch.**	Hey, it's not that bad. At least Tim Beckman isn't your coach. That's not the "help" he wanted, is it?	Motivation? They need to motivate the fans. #HardToWatch right now.	If you do well in the home stretch, I'll buy you a fire truck. To share, of course. I'm not made of money.	Hurry back, the weather is amazing here.	You can keep your beer outside when you get home!
2 **Jimmy Butler says you can blame him for the Bulls' poor defense. You good with that?**	Jimmy recognizes a problem and he wants to fix it. How can someone not dig that?	Absolutely. Shows accountability.	Sure, I also blame Scooby and the gang for foiling my plan. I'd have gotten away with it, too!	I always blame the Butler.	Can I blame Benny the Bull, too?
3 **What was missing from the Patriots' Super Bowl parade?**	Pete Carroll. The Patriots might as well have given him the game ball.	Deflating football balloons falling to the ground.	Ethics.	Sunshine and warmth. With Bill Belichick, there's never any warmth.	The Bears from 29 years ago.
4 **If Matt Forte's wife can launch a maternity fashion line ...**	... then I can write the great American novel.	... the Bears can launch a rushing attack.	... then Jay Cutler's wife can get her kids vaccinated.	How inspiring! I'm gonna finish some lingerie mockups I started, oh, 27 years ago.	... then Derrick Rose can share some of his Skittles.
5 **Is there a better sports name than Equanimeous St. Brown?**	Nope. That kid is going to get a shoutout from "Key & Peele."	Hard to say. Now catch some TDs to make it #HeismanWorthy.	Yes, Ed Ott.	Yes. His name is Algebraic McDouciver. However, I just made that one up so it might not count.	Hello, Stick Figure?

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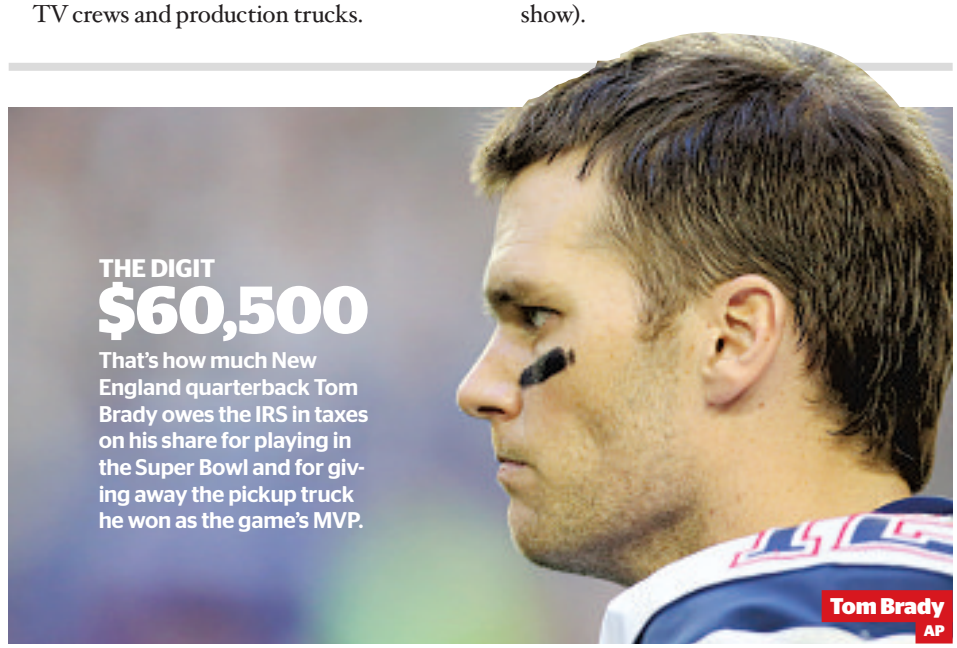
studs&duds / FROM NEWS SERVICES

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell
GETTY IMAGES

Chicago Tribune

Providing a peek inside plans to stage the NFL draft in Chicago this year is the league's five-page wish list it sent in August to Choose Chicago, the nonprofit tourism agency organizing the event with the league. The Tribune received the documents via a public records request to the city. Notable among the NFL's requests are:

» Cordoning off stretches of road around Grant Park and Congress Plaza, including a key stretch of Congress Parkway between Michigan and Wabash avenues for up to nearly three weeks.
» Free use for the Auditorium Theatre and other spaces owned by Roosevelt University from April 19 to May 6; free Wi-Fi and other technology for the NFL and its partners at all locations; and free parking for NFL staff, TV crews and production trucks.
» Free parking at draft venues and free police escorts for prospective draft picks and NFL "dignitaries."
» Commitments from 13 hotels to reserve rooms at discounted or complimentary rates for prospective players, NFL staff and others.
» Outdoor space for a "village" for about 15 "sponsor activation zones" and football fields for youth clinics and events for five days. Also three locations with enough "party space" for 150 people and serve Anheuser-Busch; up to 700 people with concert space April 29; and 250 people for a lunch with television shooting.
» Along with Choose Chicago, promotional material and signage worth at least $4 million.
» Commitment to host the 2016 NFL draft (this was agreed to by the city, documents show).



Tom Brady
AP

THE FINISH LINE » Tiger Woods withdraws from Farmers Insurance Open with injury

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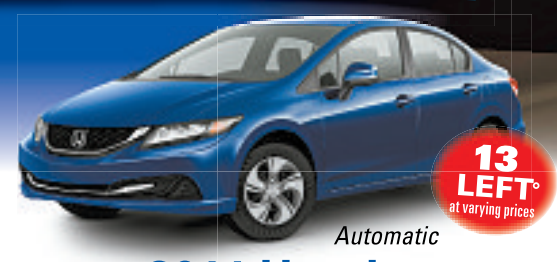

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A selection of flowers at Forget Me Knodt
HILARY HIGGINS PHOTOS FOR REDEYE

Valentine's Day cards

COMING UP ROSES

A FAMILY BUSINESS FINDS NEW ROOTS IN UPTOWN

By Morgan Olsen | FOR REDEYE

The proof is in her genes. Chicago florist Janessa Knodt comes from a bloom-obsessed family—most notably, her grandparents, August and Doris Knodt, who opened a flower shop out of their apartment in 1952 in Hayward, Calif. They called it Forget Me Knodt. (Clever, huh?) Eventually, they upgraded to a brick-and-mortar location that would house many of her favorite childhood memories.

Today, the 34-year-old owns a flower shop by the same name in Uptown. Just like her grandparents, Knodt's designs are served with a side of whimsy.

"We're definitely more quirky—not fussy," Knodt said. "I love loose, organic, free-flowing flowers. I have a hard time when someone wants something purposeful and perfect. The weirder, the better."

Although Knodt's heritage is deeply rooted in the floral industry, the West Coast native studied English and creative writing at the University of California, San Diego. The day after she graduated, Knodt packed her car and moved to Chicago—a promise she'd made herself after visiting the city at age 16.

"California is a much slower pace, and at that time—in my mid 20s—I wanted to be in a big city. Chicago seemed perfect," she said. "The people are super friendly, and it's not as overwhelming as New York."

Knodt put in long hours as a copywriter at 88 Brand Partners, a creative agency just south of the Loop. But even her hectic schedule couldn't keep her away from flowers for long. When her brother started planning his wedding, Knodt volunteered to take care of the flowers. That wedding led to another, which led to nine more that year.

"I was in my kitchen making stuff all the time," Knodt laughed, adding that her bathtub was regularly filled to the brim with flowers. "But as more and more people came to me, I realized I could make a living doing this. I was doing way too many weddings to be operating out of a kitchen."

The following year, Knodt booked 26 weddings. In a leap of faith, she quit her job at the agency in 2012 to pursue floral design as a full-time career.

"There were definitely some Friday nights when all of my friends would be out at parties and I would be up all night drinking 5-Hour Energy making boutonnieres, thinking, 'Why am I doing this to myself? I could be sitting at my desk writing ad copy,' " she said. "But I think any small-business owner will tell you that. You definitely have times when you hate your business, but it's also so gratifying."

While weddings kept her dreams afloat, Knodt craved the human interaction she remembered from her grandparents' neighborhood shop.

"I'm very outgoing. I love having people over, so I wanted to have a space," Knodt said. "The neighborhood flower shop is a thing that you don't see much of anymore. People go to Jewel when they want flowers."

A sign came in 2013 while Knodt was walking her dog, Maddie, in Uptown. A storefront on Wilson Avenue had gone up for rent just west of Baker & Nosh, one of her favorite breakfast spots. She signed the lease in March and opened shop in April.

Moving from her kitchen came with growing pains, including an incident involving a fancy new flower cooler and her very first wedding in the Uptown space.

"I was so excited to have that cooler, but I didn't know you had to calibrate the temperature and adjust it. There were all these things I was supposed to do, but I just plugged it in and stuck all the flowers inside," Knodt said. "I went home that night and when I came back in the morning they were all dead. The temperature was turned below freezing. I had to order all new flowers for that wedding—that was expensive."

Local florists and small business owners—like Kelly Marie Thompson of Logan Square's Fleur and Baker & Nosh owners Bill Millholland and Terry Groff—were happy to help along the way, offering guidance on everything from floral techniques to employee management.

Knodt's husband, John Paul Ambrosio, said he believes her stint in advertising also paid off in a big way.

"She understands how to reach out and really strike a chord with her customers," he said. "She's genuine—it's not just put-on. She's very much in tune with her brand, and her brand is her. It might be easier or less expensive to go somewhere else for flowers, but her customers appreciate her authenticity."

Putting in face time with her clients is one of the most satisfying parts of Knodt's job.

"It's getting to actually make something

Terrariums and candles at the shop

and then seeing the immediate reaction of the person right in front of you. That's really gratifying," she said. "I'm in the business of making people happy."

Throughout the store, there are nods to Knodt's grandparents, their dreams and the original Forget Me Knodt. Framed photos punctuate the walls: one of her grandmother handing her mother her wedding bouquet, another of the original shop sign that hung in her grandparents' apartment in Hayward. There's also a loving portrait of her grandfather sketched by her grandmother.

And although August Knodt is deceased and her grandparents weren't able to teach her the ins and outs of running a business—something Knodt admitted she still struggles with—she did pick up invaluable lessons that shape her practice today. Rule No. 1: No order is ever too weird.

"My grandma was up for anything. She always told this one story about this guy's girlfriend who loved pigs, so he wanted a pig made out of flowers. And my grandma was like, 'Yeah, we can do that,' " Knodt said, laughing. "She found a way to do it—she gave it a little nose and pipe cleaner tail."

Knodt channeled her 91-year-old grandma Doris when two grooms came to her last year with an out-of-the-box idea: They were getting married at the Old Town School of Folk Music and wanted to incorporate instruments in the floral design. For months leading up to the wedding, Knodt collected broken pieces from customers and community members—a busted drum set, tubas, trombones, cellos and violins flooded the shop.

Days before the wedding, Knodt breathed new life into the instruments with bursts of yellow and blue flowers—sunflowers, roses and irises poured from the forgotten pieces.

"It was really special because these two guys have waited so long, and they can finally get married legally. I was even more excited to go nuts," she said. "It hadn't really been done before, but I was just like, 'We'll figure it out.' "

In the past two years, Knodt has attached flowers to taxidermy, anchored herself to the bottom of a pool to create floating centerpieces and woven floral halos for statues at a venue. But if there's one stereotype she's is trying to break, it's that the floral industry is all roses all the time.

"People tend to think, 'Oh, your job is so pretty and you must not have any stress ever,' " she said. "It's super stressful. These flowers are dying as we're looking at them—it's all perishable. This is a dirty job."

Though she may be silently freaking out on the inside, Knodt constantly is looking for ways to spread beauty through her product.

"She's operating on 30 percent but giving 100 [percent] to everyone," her husband said. "Even when she's sleep-deprived, she's got a smile on her face and she's wondering how she can make someone else happier."

To give her customers a peek into the labor of love that is her job, Knodt hosts weekly floral classes at her shop. With a 10-person-max, BYOB policy and a new theme every week, she passes on the basics of floral design—just like her grandparents did decades ago.

"I'm such a people person and I'm so into creating," Knodt said. "It was kind of like that in advertising. I'd write something and then I'd get to see it up on a billboard, but it wasn't always for a good purpose—like a credit card company. This is a much more immediate, tangible way to create and see something come to fruition."

MORGAN OLSEN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

TAKE A CLASS:
Forget Me Knodt, After Dark
7-9 p.m. Feb. 11
1313 W. Wilson Ave. 773-944-1041.
$100 per student. Create an all-red centerpiece just in time for Valentine's Day. Bonus points: Chocolate truffles from Baker & Nosh and a signature cocktail will be served. Visit **forgetmeknodt.com/blog** for more classes.

Janessa Knodt, owner of Forget Me Knodt

Disintegrates on impact

FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
» mpais@redeyechicago.com
» @mattpais

Jupiter Ascending
PG-13

Much funnier to discuss than to watch, "Jupiter Ascending" stars Channing Tatum's misguided goatee as a half-man/half-wolf bent on saving Jupiter (Mila Kunis), or "Joop" to her friends, from an evil space dictator (Eddie Redmayne) who "owns Earth" and whose voice apparently works only when hushed and emotionless or cranked to 11. Mix in other genetic splices that still pretty much look human (not including ElephantFace over there), a pathetically shoehorned-in love story and talking lizard henchmen who make me want to watch "Super Mario Brothers," and you should have the formula for unintentional hilarity.

Except this abysmal space opera, the latest evidence that the Wachowskis ("Speed Racer," "Cloud Atlas") should have quit after "The Matrix," is a total joke that takes itself very seriously, leading to an epic achievement in boredom. Jupiter hates her life in Chicago as a house cleaner, so she's mostly happy to discover she's actually intergalactic royalty or something. However, her claim to planetary ownership makes her a target. Because I guess villains who want to harvest other beings still defer to the rules of contracts and bloodlines when it comes to wiping out a species.

Local writers/directors Andy and Lana Wachowski never explain why these literal space cadets consider time a precious commodity when everyone's mostly miserable and there's not much use for living thousands of years. Among other puzzlements: Bees are genetically designed to recognize royalty, and Caine's (Tatum) space boots kinda make it look like he's rollerblading everywhere.

Mila Kunis in 'Jupiter Ascending' AP

Aside from a bloodless downtown action sequence and scenes with Jupiter's family that do nothing to establish a sense of place, most of "Jupiter Ascending" (pushed from its scheduled release last summer) is set in a shiny orange world where the explosions are just as dull as they are on Earth. Maybe the Wachowskis think they're making "Star Wars," but it's closer to "Dune"—horribly plotted and embarrassingly acted. Kunis may as well have "I find this ridiculous" tattooed on her forehead.

She's right: Even when the movie's individual pieces are explained, they don't come together to make any sense. This still would be a problem even if the actors were, ideally, a lot younger so the movie at least could ride some angsty teenage energy. Instead, "Jupiter Ascending" is regretful 30-somethings stuck in an off-brand "Men in Black" sequel—a black hole where fun goes to die.

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

Handicapped Access ♦ Digital Sound ✓ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes 🦻 Hearing - Impaired

G - General audience. PG - Parental guidance suggested. R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian. PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)
600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily ♿
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:45, 5:15
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) Đ 2:20, 7:45, 10:15
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ Đ 4:15
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) ★ Đ 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 10:10
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) Đ 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) ★ Đ 11:20, 4:25
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:15, 1:20, 7:15, 9:45
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 1:45, 6:45, 9:10
- AMC Independent **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20
- AMC Independent **American Sniper** (R) Đ 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00
- **Black or White** (PG-13) ★ Đ (Closed caption) 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 9:00
- AMC Independent **The Boy Next Door** (R) Đ 11:00

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)
2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949
- **Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) (Closed caption) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
- **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
- **Wild** (R) (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
- **Inherent Vice** (R) (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 1:05, 4:20
- **Inherent Vice** (R) (Closed caption) 6:45, 10:05
- **A Most Violent Year** (R) 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 10:00
- **The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2015: Live Action** (NR) 4:50, 9:45
- **The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2015: Animated** (NR) 2:45, 7:40
- **Still Alice** (PG-13) (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 7:45, 10:10
- **Still Alice** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 3:45

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
- **Jupiter Ascending: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:20, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 4:20, 7:20
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:30, 3:10, 4:10, 5:50, 7:10, 8:30, 9:50
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 12:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:30
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:55, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
- **The Loft** (R) (Closed caption) 3:55, 9:55
- **Black Sea** (R) (Closed caption) 10:55
- **Strange Magic** (PG) (Closed caption) 2:20
- **The Boy Next Door** (R) (Closed caption) 5:05, 7:55, 10:35
- **Paddington** (PG) (Closed caption) 10:35, 1:05, 3:45, 6:45, 9:25
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) (Closed caption) 1:15, 7:05
- **Taken 3** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:35, 7:35
- **American Sniper** (R) (Closed caption) 10:30, 11:50, 1:10, 3:00, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:40, 10:50
- **Selma** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 4:25, 10:25
- **The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:25, 10:05

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893
- **American Sniper** (R) ★ 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
- **Whiplash** (R) ★ 5:00, 9:50
- **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) ★ 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
- **The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) ★ 7:20
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) 4:50, 7:00, 9:15

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
(312) 846-2800
- **Citizenfour** (R) 6:00, 8:15
- **A Tale of Winter** (NR) 6:00
- **Girlhood** (NR) 8:15

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:15, 4:45
- **Paddington** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 10:15, 1:20, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 2:00, 7:30, 10:10
- **The Loft** (R) ★ Đ 5:20, 8:00, 10:45
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:00, 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:35, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) Đ 5:30, 8:10, 10:45
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) Đ 10:15, 1:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:15, 1:45, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 10:45, 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
- **Taken 3** (PG-13) Đ 1:10, 4:00, 9:50
- AMC Independent **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35
- AMC Independent **American Sniper** (R) Đ 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10
- AMC Independent **Selma** (PG-13) Đ 10:00
- AMC Independent **Selma** (PG-13) Đ 6:45
- **Black or White** (PG-13) ★ Đ (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:40, 4:40, 7:35, 10:35
- AMC Independent **The Boy Next Door** (R) Đ 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
- **Strange Magic** (PG) Đ 12:35, 3:00

LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628
- **American Sniper** (R) 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
- **Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) 4:00, 8:35
- **Dirty Dancing** (PG-13) 11:00
- **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
- **Inherent Vice** (R) 2:30, 5:20, 8:15
- **Whiplash** (R) 6:20, 11:00

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) ★ Đ 2:45, 10:45
- **Paddington** (PG) ★ Đ (Closed caption) 11:45, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 11:00
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) Đ 12:15, 5:15, 8:00
- AMC Independent **Whiplash** (R) Đ 10:25, 1:15, 6:30
- **The Loft** (R) ★ Đ 2:35, 5:30, 8:15, 10:55
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ Đ 4:00, 7:00
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:00, 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) Đ 10:00
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) ★ Đ 10:15, 11:45, 1:45, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 9:00
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:00, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:15, 10:15
- AMC Independent **The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) Đ 10:00, 1:05, 4:00, 7:00
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 2:30, 7:45, 10:15
- AMC Independent **Black Sea** (R) ★ Đ (Closed caption) 11:30
- **Taken 3** (PG-13) Đ 3:50, 10:30
- AMC Independent **Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) Đ 12:00, 2:55, 6:00, 9:10
- AMC Independent **Red Army** (PG) ★ Đ 10:05, 12:10, 2:15, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00
- **Mortdecai** (R) Đ 1:15
- AMC Independent **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) Đ 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30
- AMC Independent **American Sniper** (R) Đ 10:30, 1:45, 4:00, 5:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:00, 10:30
- AMC Independent **Selma** (PG-13) Đ 10:00, 1:00
- **Black or White** (PG-13) ★ Đ (Closed caption) 10:45, 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
- AMC Independent **Still Alice** (PG-13) Đ 10:40, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 10:55
- **Shamitabh** (NR) ★ Đ 12:50, 4:15, 7:35, 10:00
- AMC Independent **The Boy Next Door** (R) Đ 3:50, 6:30, 9:05
- AMC Independent **A Most Violent Year** (R) Đ 10:35, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10
- **Running Man** (NR) ★ Đ 10:00, 12:30, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604
- **Leviathan** (R) 4:15, 9:00
- **Two Days, One Night** (PG-13) 2:15, 7:00
- **Red Army** (PG) 2:15, 4:00, 5:45, 7:30, 9:40
- **Fight Club** (R) 11:59
- **Enter the Dangerous Mind** (NR) 11:59

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) ★ Đ 12:00, 5:30, 9:30
- **Paddington** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 10:45
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 2:30, 8:00
- **Seventh Son: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:30, 4:30, 10:30
- **The Loft** (R) ★ Đ 4:20, 10:20
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:30
- AMC Independent **One Small Hitch** (NR) ★ Đ 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) Đ 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
- **Into the Woods** (PG) Đ 1:20, 7:20
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) ★ Đ 10:30, 11:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:00, 8:30
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 12:15, 3:15, 6:14, 9:30
- AMC Independent **The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) Đ 1:40, 7:40
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:45
- AMC Independent **Black Sea** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 2:45
- **Jupiter Ascending: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) ★ Đ 1:15, 7:15
- **Taken 3** (PG-13) Đ 7:50, 10:40
- AMC Independent **Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) Đ 4:40, 10:30
- **Mortdecai** (R) Đ 11:00
- AMC Independent **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
- AMC Independent **American Sniper** (R) Đ 10:30, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:45, 10:30
- AMC Independent **Selma** (PG-13) Đ 10:50, 1:50, 4:50
- **Black or White** (PG-13) ★ Đ (Closed caption) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
- AMC Independent **The Boy Next Door** (R) ★ Đ 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:45
- AMC Independent **A Most Violent Year** (R) Đ 7:30, 10:30

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, 11:50
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:40, 9:20
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:10, 4:20, 6:50
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:20, 12:50, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00, 9:40
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20
- **Black or White** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:20, 3:20, 6:00, 11:30
- **The Boy Next Door** (R) (Closed caption) 10:25, 8:05
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) (Closed caption) 11:20
- **American Sniper** (R) (Closed caption) 10:40, 11:00, 12:40, 1:35, 2:20, 3:50, 4:40, 5:10, 6:45, 7:40, 8:30, 9:50, 10:40, 12:00
- **Selma** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:20
- **The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:00, 10:25
- **The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:10

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) ★ Đ 5:00, 10:10
- **Paddington** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:45, 2:20, 7:35
- **The Loft** (R) Đ 3:30, 6:15
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ Đ 1:00, 4:00
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) Đ 11:05, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) Đ 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) ★ Đ 2:30
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) ★ Đ 11:00, 4:00, 7:30, 9:00
- AMC Independent **Love, Rosie** (R) Đ 11:00, 9:00
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:00, 7:00, 10:00
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 12:00, 1:30, 6:30, 10:00
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 5:00
- **Taken 3** (PG-13) Đ 11:45, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25
- AMC Independent **American Sniper** (R) Đ 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
- AMC Independent **Selma** (PG-13) Đ 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
- **Black or White** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
- AMC Independent **The Boy Next Door** (R) Đ 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
- **Strange Magic** (PG) Đ 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104
- **American Sniper** (R) ✓ (Closed caption) 12:10, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:10, 7:40
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:30, 2:00, 4:10, 7:10
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:10, 5:00, 10:20
- **Paddington** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:20, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:45, 1:45, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) (Closed caption) 7:20, 10:10
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 10:20, 11:20, 11:50, 12:50, 2:30, 3:45, 4:40, 5:15, 6:20, 8:50
- **The Loft** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 8:10, 11:00
- **The Boy Next Door** (R) (Closed caption) 9:40, 11:15
- **Black Sea** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 10:00
- **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:40, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30
- **Selma** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:45, 3:10, 6:10, 9:20
- **American Sniper** (R) (Closed caption) 10:00, 11:40, 1:10, 2:50, 4:20, 6:00, 7:30, 9:10, 10:40
- **Black or White** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:10, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45

VIP Premium 21+
- **American Sniper** (R) ✓ (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 12:10, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 10:45, 1:45, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50

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- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:15, 1:00, 8:30
- **Paddington** (PG) Đ 10:35, 1:05, 3:10, 6:00, 9:45
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 3:30, 6:00, 11:00
- **The Loft** (R) ★ Đ 7:50, 10:35
- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:30, 4:30
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:10, 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) Đ 10:10, 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 10:00
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) ★ Đ 10:00, 10:45, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) ★ Đ 1:30, 7:30, 10:45
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 12:30, 4:30
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) ★ Đ 10:00, 11:30, 2:00, 3:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30
- **Taken 3** (PG-13) Đ 1:40, 5:40, 8:30, 11:05
- AMC Independent **American Sniper** (R) Đ 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
- AMC Independent **Spare Parts** (PG-13) Đ 6:00, 11:05
- AMC Independent **Selma** (PG-13) Đ 12:00, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
- **Black or White** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:25, 1:20, 4:15, 8:20, 11:05
- AMC Independent **The Boy Next Door** (R) Đ 2:55, 5:15, 8:40, 10:55
- **Strange Magic** (PG) Đ 11:05, 1:05, 3:30

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- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) (Closed caption) 1:05, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
- **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- **American Sniper** (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50
- **Selma** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35

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- **Jupiter Ascending** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 12:10, 6:00, 8:55
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) 2:05, 7:30
- **Jupiter Ascending 3D** (PG-13) 11:30, 3:05, 5:05, 10:30
- **Whiplash** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:25, 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05
- **Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:55, 7:15, 10:20
- **The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:00
- **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:20, 1:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10
- **Into the Woods** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 11:50, 5:40
- **Paddington** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
- **Selma** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35
- **American Sniper** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 1:00, 2:40, 4:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
- **The Wedding Ringer** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 4:40
- **The Loft** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:40, 5:10, 10:40
- **Project Almanac** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45
- **Seventh Son** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:50, 4:15, 9:15
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) 11:35, 5:00, 10:25
- **Seventh Son 3D** (PG-13) 1:30, 2:35, 6:45, 8:00
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water** (PG) Đ 11:45, 2:15, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40
- **The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water 3D** (PG) 12:55, 3:25, 5:55, 8:25, 10:45
- **Black or White** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:05, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25
- **A Most Violent Year** (R) Đ 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
- **Still Alice** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
- **Black Sea** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 2:25, 7:55

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Girlhood
Not Rated

About a million times better than "Boyhood," "Girlhood" does pretty much everything Richard Linklater's overrated Oscar contender doesn't: It understands how the formative years actually happen, with decisions leading to memories, lessons, mistakes and growth. There are highs and lows, and certain elements are universal, but this French drama doesn't do cliches. It's an insightful, brilliantly acted look at a young life in development.

In an incredible debut performance, Karidja Toure stars as Marieme, a shy teenager motivated to befriend a group of more outgoing girls after she sees the male attention they receive. Gradually a real bond develops between Marieme, who now goes by "Vic" (short for Victory) after receiving a necklace with that name on it from queen bee "Lady" (Assa Sylla), and her new besties, revealed through subtle observations by writer-director Celine Sciamma ("Tomboy"). With an involving rhythm and deliberate pace, "Girlhood" understands the relationship between who you are on the outside and the inside, and how surroundings and an ever-changing social world impact who you become when you're young.

Sciamma allows a few characters, including Vic's boyfriend, to exist at a distance that's not quite in line with their significance. But you sure as hell don't have to be a 16-year-old black French girl to relate to what happens, or appreciate what "Girlhood" knows about these characters—or anyone trying to define themselves. That doesn't just mean the pointless arguments and difficult choices that come with adolescence. It's a precise depiction of personal moments (like Marieme falling asleep holding her younger sister's hands across the beds in their shared room) that speak volumes, even if they didn't happen that way to you.

And even if Marieme's change in look and lifestyle recalls Lindsay Weir in "Freaks and Geeks," "Girlhood" brims with originality and confidence. And unlike "Boyhood," there's real sense of movement over time, that one thing leads to another and nothing is ever the same. From fights to dance routines to resentments and make-ups, this is a tremendous portrait of youth that continually adjusts whether each character represents a lifeline for now, or a bridge to the future.

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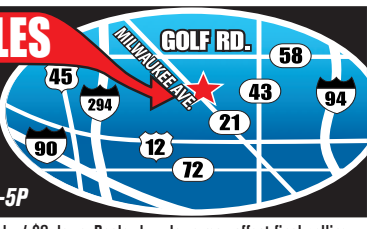

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eat&drink

THAT'S amore

Canestri with Sunday gravy at Formento's

New- and old-school unite at Formento's

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

There are a lot of things Chicago doesn't need more of: potholes, corruption, red light cameras and polar vortexes, to name a few. On the dining scene, that list includes taquerias, steakhouses and Italian restaurants—there are arguably plenty to go around. Italian-wise, we've got fancified gourmet versions such as Balena, Nico Osteria and Acanto. There are plenty of old-school red sauce joints like Tufano's, Sabatino's and La Scarola, and enough Rosebuds to fill the White House Rose Garden. What we don't have is a red sauce joint running with the aplomb of a modern restaurant group. Until now. The folks behind Balena and The Bristol—John Ross and Phil Walters, aka B Hospitality—along with chef/partner (and former Balena sous chef) Tony Quartaro, have now put down a stake with the opening of Formento's, their attempt at old-school Italian run with modern sensibility. I stopped in to see if it would be a red sauce revelation or a limp noodle.

Come fly with me

There's something charming about cozying up in a 50-year-old faded red vinyl booth and sitting where Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin once did. And yet, the fact is some spots pimping the faded black-and-white photos of Ol' Blue Eyes are trading on cheap history. The red sauce is underseasoned and the noodles overcooked; look closer and that red vinyl might be repaired with duct tape. Not so at Formento's, where the only true nod to nostalgia is a big fake arrangement of alabaster fruit sitting center of the dining room, similar to one owned by Ross' grandmother, Nonna Formento herself. The decor—gleaming mahogany banquettes, red dome chandeliers and slick swaths of chocolate-colored wood trim around the booths—seems like it would suit Michael Buble rather than Sinatra. With all the handsome bearded dudes and ladies in glimmering heels dining around me, Formento's felt less Sunday night gravy and more Saturday night soiree.

Red sauce reimagined

But there is Sunday gravy ($16), magnificent meaty red sauce infused with simmered pork neck bones, emulsified fat and braised pancetta. A big juicy meatball and links of fennel sausage take a bath in that sauce, and it's all spooned tableside over house-extruded canestri, a pasta shape that looks like a hybrid of macaroni and rigatoni. Then food runners sprinkle cheese from a granny china-patterned tureen over the noodles. Pink quail breasts ($29)—stuffed with sage, wrapped in prosciutto and tightly wound with caul fat before being roasted into fat sausage-like lobes—are as rich as beef, lying on dollops of fontina cheese cream sprinkled with toasted hazelnuts. Though I relished the chance

Shrimp scampi at Formento's

to sample a rabbit crepe for its novelty, my server pushed the chicken parmesan instead. The parm ($25) was lithe and crispy, mostly due to a mix of matzo in the breading, and each juicy bite of Amish chicken burst with spicy oregano and the anise-flavored punch of micro-basil.

Most revelatory of all, though, was the shrimp scampi ($29), a dish I've never had outside of the broiled garlic-butter swamp served at Red Lobster. Here, New Zealand langoustines full of plump, sweet meat were topped with a fluffy rock shrimp mousseline and bathed in rich garlic butter punched up with bright white wine vinegar. I devoured the langoustines quick, which led to my only complaint about Formento's, that this dish wasn't served up with crusty bread to soak up the remaining butter sauce. Also falling into the reinvention department was a complimentary starter of house-made giardiniera. At one point, I spooned the slivered florets of cauliflower, chunks of carrot and celery and fiery bits of serrano and calabrian chili directly in my mouth. I never thought an Al's Italian beef could be improved upon, but if they subbed in Formento's giardiniera for their own, they'd rule the world. No beef in sight, I spooned it over golden triangles of incredible house-baked focaccia.

Formento's
Already hot
925 W. Randolph St.
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That's hospitaliano

Maybe more incredible than the food is that just a few days after opening, the service was impeccable. Walking into the restaurant, the seas parted as servers and food runners stepped aside, beckoned and guided me to my destination. There's a Disney World-esque discipline of smiling and greeting you at Formento's as if you're the most important person in the room, something you rarely see outside of super high-end places such as Sixteen or Acadia. Though I'm a dude, experiencing the gratitude and deference of the staff, I imagined this is what it must have felt like to be Audrey Hepburn.

Time for wine

I spent about two minutes with the thick green leather-wrapped wine list before wine director Steven Morgan (a vet of Alinea) noticed and bounded over to offer his stewardship. The bottle selection is both deep and wide—think 600-plus bottles, 120 Italian varietals—as are the 30-plus by-the-glass selections. The list, which also includes a history of how winemaker George Vare pioneered ribolla gialla and pinot grigio varietals in Napa Valley, reads like a book. I especially enjoyed Morgan's recommendation of the Masi Campofiorin red blend, which was smooth and full of cherry and spice. My date and I ordered two different wines by the glass, and, unprompted, Morgan offered to split each of the pours so we could taste both wines with our meal.

Bottom line

Though there is no lack of Italian restaurants in Chicago, there is no refined red sauce experience quite like this. Killing an order of shrimp de jonghe at Sabatino's or whiling away an evening over pasta e fagiole at La Scarola is always fun. However, Formento's bests all comers with its fine service and its commitment to elevated cooking.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
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HOLDING ON

From jazz to sweatshirts, Chance the Rapper collaborator Lili K won't let go of the past

Lili K
8 p.m. Sat. at Metro. $12-$15.

By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

Even if you're not familiar with the name Lili K, there's a good chance you've heard her voice.

The soulful singer/songwriter, who drops her full-length debut "Ruby" in late April, first broke into the public consciousness delivering the hooks on a handful of tracks by Chicago's Chance the Rapper—a collaboration that culminated in an appearance during the MC's headlining turn at last summer's Lollapalooza.

For her solo debut, however, Lili opted to reconnect with her deep jazz and soul roots, turning out lush, orchestrated tracks born of busted hearts and the early flickers of romance.

"I got introduced to jazz in middle school, and it resonated with me," the 23-year-old Edgewater resident said. "I didn't realize it had been missing, but once it was there it was like, 'Where has this been my whole existence?' "

ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
@ANDYDOWNING33

A lot of people in Chicago know your name from your work with Chance. Do you think those people will be surprised by this record?
I think some will, but I've always gotten comments from people that they hear the jazz and they hear the soul in my voice. Even when I was doing the hip-hop features, I was still trying to put as much of myself into them as possible.

A number of the songs are rooted in relationships.
Whether they're romantic or just friendships or family, people are constantly weaving in and out of your life. It's just a process that is so relatable because we all go through it. We've all had our hearts broken. We've all fallen stupidly in love. It's a universal feeling, and it comes to me easier than anything else because I feel it so strongly.

There are numerous references to holding on and to letting go. Which is more difficult?
Definitely letting go. I try to do everything in my power to make something work before giving up on a relationship or a person. I know those situations can become unhealthy, and I should have let them go long before I did. I'm learning about things like that, but it's hard. In my mind I think, "I can make this work. I can forgive enough [and] I can forget enough." And that's not always the case, unfortunately.

Do you have anything from childhood you haven't been able to let go of? Like a favorite stuffed animal?
There are definitely things I hold on to for too long, like a sweatshirt I never wear and still keep because it reminds me of something.

Can you describe the scene at Minbal Studios where you did the recording?
It's got a really cool, retro atmosphere. You walk in and you feel like you're in the 1960s. It has a really warm sound, and it fit the project really well. I wanted this to be a very raw album. I didn't want it to be over-edited or over-processed. I wanted to leave in a lot of the mistakes and miscues that happen in recording, like people talking or a creaky piano bench or a guitar amp picks up a radio station. A lot of that stuff is so cool to me. That's what I love about older recordings: You can hear those mistakes and they're not polished away.

You address your mom in a couple songs, and I've gotten the sense she's still an important person in your life.
Yeah, my mom is my best friend. She raised me as a single parent, so our thing has always been, "It's me and you against the world." She was always open, and she let me make my own mistakes. She had an unconventional parenting style, but it worked because it made it easy for me to approach her with a problem rather than hiding it. Honesty makes every relationship—boyfriend/girlfriend, parent/child, or even friendship—so much easier.

So did you find you'd rebel by spending extra time in the library?
[Laughs.] I didn't rebel that much. I was an art-school nerd, and all of our free time was spent in rehearsals and making fake movies. We had a horror movie series. The first was "Oops, I Peed My Pants," then there was "Oops, I Did It Again," and then there was "Oops, I Peed the Pool." This was all in middle school, and I was this murdering grandma. That was the type of stuff we did.

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THE SICKEST BEATS

Handing out some pre-Grammy Grammys

By Matt Pais | REDEYE

Good news! I'm going to skip the part where we pretend the Grammys recognize the absolute best the music industry has to offer. Pharrell for Album of the Year? Iggy Azalea for anything? Seriously? So let's proceed and present the kind of awards that really should be given out Sunday. MPAIS@REDEYECHICAGO.COM | @MATTPAIS

BEST WORST SONG
'Fancy,' Iggy Azalea feat. Charli XCX
nominated for Record of the Year and more
Yes, this song was everywhere in 2014. Does that mean it's not terrible, or that Azalea isn't a vapid example of the worst kind of cultural appropriation? No, it does not.

SADDEST NOMINEE
Sam Smith
nominated for Album of the Year and more
Obviously.

SAD NOMINEE WORTH LISTENING TO
Beck
nominated for Album of the Year and more
"Morning Phase" has a gentle beauty that doesn't sound like Beck needs to tear up to get his point across.

SHOULD HAVE BEEN AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED
Pharrell
nominated for Album of the Year and more
When you make a song as annoying as "Happy," everything else you do is irrelevant.

SONG THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU FORGIVE ITS MISTAKES
'Shake It Off,' Taylor Swift
nominated for Record of the Year and more
Every time I hear her say "sick beat," I cringe. But it's a massive hit that deserves to be one—stupidly danceable and fantastically cathartic.

SECOND-MOST EMPOWERING SONG
'All About That Bass,' Meghan Trainor
nominated for Record of the Year and more
Don't call her a one-hit wonder. She's not.

CATEGORY THAT SHOULD HAVE TWO SUB-CATEGORIES FOR GOOD AND BAD
Best Rap Album
Schoolboy Q, Common and Childish Gambino should not be forced to spend time with Eminem, Iggy Azalea and Wiz Khalifa.

BEST NEW ARTIST NOMINEE WHO ACTUALLY LOOKS TO HAVE A BIG CAREER AHEAD
Haim
They arrived with a lot of hype, then blew all expectations out of the water. They're even better live.

DECENT BAND WE WILL PROBABLY NEVER HEAR FROM AGAIN
Bastille
nominated for Best New Artist and more
Sorry, guys. Just a hunch.

BAND THAT DESERVED A LOT MORE NOMINATIONS
Arctic Monkeys
nominated for Best Rock Performance
But I guess artists making great albums aren't what the voters are looking for.

BEST USE OF A SELF-TITLED ALBUM
St. Vincent
nominated for Best Alternative Music Album
It was her fourth solo record but the perfect time to let her name stand for itself.

MOST LIKELY TO BE UNFAIRLY OVERSHADOWED BY BEYONCE
Jhene Aiko
nominated for Best Urban Contemporary Album and more
She'll have her time in the spotlight one day. But there's simply no defeating Bey.

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ACROSS
1 Boys named for their fathers: abbr.
4 Deep audible breaths
9 __ crackers; saltines
13 Lubricates
15 Thief
16 Passionate
17 Radar screen image
18 Jewish leader
19 Repair
20 Book learning
22 "It's no __ business except mine"
23 Record
24 Org. for Bucks and Bulls
26 Smarts; hurts
29 Turn off
34 Bert's buddy
35 Rough woolen coat fabric
36 Pigsty
37 Slender in build
38 Piece of dining room furniture
39 Talk casually
40 Be dishonest
41 Wharves
42 Idaho's capital
43 Overexerted oneself
45 Kindle user
46 Comfy room
47 Cauldrons
48 Additionally
51 Like the feats of a gymnast
56 Like pricey hamburger
57 Native New Zealander
58 Resound
60 Epiphany visitors
61 Frequently
62 Genuine
63 Group baths
64 Has to have
65 Ike's initials

DOWN
1 Occupation
2 Irritate
3 Went down a fireman's pole
4 Fragments
5 Furious
6 Asian desert
7 Boxcar rider
8 Not as fat
9 Pago Pago native
10 Kiln
11 Have a meal
12 Tallies up
14 Russian spacecraft
21 Canary's home
25 Twin, full, queen or king
26 Peddles
27 Characteristic
28 Near the center
29 Prize
30 Island garlands
31 Plant pest
32 Kid with
33 Go into
35 "My Country, 'Tis of __"
38 Apple pie spice
39 Roller __; thrilling ride
41 Dessert choice
42 Alpha's follower
44 Handsome young man
45 Songbirds
47 __ over; studied intently
48 Charitable gift
49 Jump
50 Long story
52 Lunch spot
53 Learn by __; memorize
54 Frosted
55 Actor Everett
59 Bullfight cheer

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1895: Baseball legend George Herman "Babe" Ruth was born in Baltimore.
1952: Britain's King George VI died; he was succeeded as reigning monarch by his daughter, Elizabeth II.
1971: The Apollo 14 astronauts prepared to head back to Earth after a 33-hour stay on the moon.
2003: ABC's "20/20" aired a British documentary on Michael Jackson in which the King of Pop revealed he sometimes let children sleep in his bed.

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Three of a kind?

Is "Chicago Fire" getting another spinoff? The sirens are telling us yes. **THR.com** reports that "Chicago Medical," filming the week of Feb. 23, will air as the 19th episode of "Chicago Fire," and may become its own series. Uh, guys, this show already existed—it's called "ER."

Wax this way

Channing Tatum (middle) swore up and down that he would never, ever get waxed again after filming "Magic Mike." But he's looking mighty hairless in the new trailer for "Magic Mix XXL." So what happened? "[My co-star] Matt Bomer goes, 'No, no, you just didn't have the right lady. She just wasn't doing it right,' " he told Ellen DeGeneres. "And then I went again, and it sucked just as bad." Oh, Channing, so adorably gullible.

THE DIGIT

28 That's how many days are left on an Indiegogo campaign to manufacture the Left Shark suits from Katy Perry's Super Bowl halftime show. Creator David Lam had raised $21,089 as of Thursday afternoon, surpassing his goal of $5,000. Snag your suit now for an $89 contribution—before Jeremy Scott or whoever designed them sues the crap out of Lam.

GETTY IMAGES

In other 'shark' news

Best magazine photo ever, or best magazine photo ever? Rihanna is rocking a gold bikini for Harper's Bazaar—and that shark is looking pretty great too. So how did she feel about the finned fiends while growing up in Barbados? "It freaked me out because I was a beach baby, so every time a new 'Jaws' came out I would take months off from the beach or just sit on the sand," she said. "If I happened to get in the water, my dad would hum the theme music, and I was right back out of it."

'Playing with himself'

Hey, Chris Pratt said it, not us. The "Jurassic World" star revealed his official Lego minifigure Wednesday on Facebook, announcing "If anyone asks I'll be at home playing with myself." His caption naturally references "The Lego Movie" as well, which probably would be a great double feature with "JW," out June 1. So soon!

& KEEPING UP WITH KYLIE KENDALL

Forget the Kardashians—those Jenner girls are pretty ambitious in their own right. **THR.com** reports that Kylie and Kendall are teaming up with Topshop for a Summer 2015 capsule collection. They've already done design work for Pac Sun and Madden Girl, so maybe they're looking for a slightly more adult audience this time.

Kendall (left) and Kylie Jenner

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